

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 90

Martin R. Bartlett Collection

c. 1930 – 2014

½ box plus 6 volumes and 1 oversize folder
.5 linear feet
Accession No. LB 2017.15

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 90

Martin R. Bartlett Collection

Bartlett, Martin R., 1933-

Papers, c. 1930-2014

½ box, 6 volumes and 1 oversize folder (.5 linear feet)

Fisheries scientist and fisherman active in the swordfish fishery

Articles, industry statistics, and fishing boat specifications from Martin R. Bartlett, a fisheries scientist and commercial fisherman. The bulk of the written material consists of articles and statistics about the American swordfish, tuna, and shrimp fisheries from about 1900 to the 1970s. There is also a folder of detailed surveys of Bartlett's own boat, the PENOBSCOT GULF, which he used to fish commercially for swordfish. This is part of a larger collection of Bartlett's photographs, which documents swordfishing and other commercial fisheries in second half of the twentieth century.

In English

Martin R. Bartlett; Gift; 2017; LB2017.15

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Bartlett, Martin R., 1933-

PENOBSCOT GULF (fishing boat)

Fishing

Fishing boats

Fishery sciences

Shrimp fisheries

Swordfish

Swordfish fisheries

Tuna fisheries

Acquisition:

These papers were donated, along with a substantial photo collection, by Martin R. Bartlett in 2017.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions, except where items may retain their original copyright.

Condition:

This collection is mostly in good condition. Some items are on acidic paper, which is yellowing and brittle.

Related Materials:

Martin R. Bartlett's photographs of swordfish and other commercial fisheries are also at PMM. They have been digitized and are available online:
<<<https://penobscotmarinemuseum.org/martin-r-bartlett/>>>

Historical Note:

Martin R. Bartlett was a fisherman and fisheries scientist who was particularly active in the swordfish fishery. He grew up on Cape Cod, where he fished from shore with his father,

then enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard on graduating from high school in the 1950s. After four years in the Coast Guard, he joined the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), where he crewed on research vessels and became involved in WHOI's game fish tagging program. He was affiliated with WHOI until the mid-1970s, studying and writing about swordfish and other game fish populations and fishery methods, including recently-introduced methods like long-lining.

On leaving WHOI, Bartlett purchased the 52' oil tanker CAPE ANN SOCONY and converted it into a commercial fishing vessel named PENOBSCOT GULF. He spent the next twenty years as a commercial fisherman, mostly in the swordfish fishery but pursuing everything down to skates and sponges as the opportunity offered.

In addition to his work as a scientist and commercial fisherman, Bartlett was a dedicated photographer who visually documented the swordfish and commercial fishing industry.

Scope and Content:

This collection contains articles, statistics, and notes on commercial fisheries, particularly the American swordfish fishery, written and collected by Martin R. Bartlett. It is a companion to a larger collection of Bartlett's photographs of the commercial fishing industry in the second half of the twentieth century.

Articles written by Martin R. Bartlett are primarily technical, dealing with topics on the ecology and fishing techniques in the swordfish, tuna, and shrimp fisheries of the late twentieth century. He also collected a significant amount of material on swordfishing from Walter H. Rich, a scientist with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries in the early twentieth century. Rich's work includes detailed descriptions of the swordfish fishing under sail, swordfish ecology, and handling and marketing the catch in the 1930s, as well as statistics on swordfish landings in the early twentieth century.

Bartlett's fishing career is represented by detailed surveys of his fishing boat, the 52' PENOBSCOT GULF. These include reports and sketches of the hull construction, engines and electrical systems, fixed fishing gear, and the navigation and safety equipment used aboard a small-scale commercial swordfish boat in the late twentieth century.

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder
1	1 Martin R. Bartlett, articles and publications, 1962-2000
	2 F/V PENOBSCOT GULF, surveys and drawings, 1973-1984
	3 "The Swordfish Fishery of New England" by Walter H. Rich and Norman D. Jarvis, draft, c. 1936
	4 "The Swordfish Fishery of New England," final draft, 1936
	5 Swordfish fishery statistics, compiled by Walter H. Rich, to 1936 (see also: oversize, P 9)
	6 Notes on Japanese swordfish longlining techniques, 1963
	7 Miscellaneous: correspondence and clippings

Publications housed in the library stacks:

- Bartlett, Martin R. *Wind Shift at Peaked Hills*. Middletown, Delaware: 2014
- Gibson, Charles Dana. *The Broadbill Swordfishery of the Northwest Atlantic*. Camden, Maine: Ensign Press, 1998
- Gibson, Charles Dana. "History of the Swordfishery of the Northwestern Atlantic." *The American Neptune* 41 no. 1 (January, 1981)

Good, George Brown. *Materials for a History of the Sword Fisheries*. Washington:
Government Printing Office, 1883

Rich, Walter H. "The Swordfish and the Swordfishery of New England." *Proceedings of
the Portland Society of Natural History*, IV no. 2 (1947)